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## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, September 16, 2011

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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## **DELAWARE TO DISTRIBUTE POTASSIUM IODIDE TABLETS OCT. 6 AT VOLUNTEER HOSE CO. MIDDLETOWN**

The Delaware Emergency Management Agency and the Delaware Division of Public Health will conduct distribution of potassium iodide (KI) tablets, free of charge, on Thursday, Oct. 6, to Delaware residents in the area who live within 10 miles of the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations. Tablets will be available to those who have received potassium iodide during previous distribution dates and to those who have never received potassium iodide.

The Oct. 6 distribution date and location is as follows:

- Thursday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., at Volunteer Hose Company, 27 West Green St., Middletown

The additional date and location of potassium iodide distribution is as follows:

- Thursday, Oct. 20, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m., Townsend Fire Co., 107 Main St., Townsend

Delaware residents in the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ), the 10-mile radius around the plant, received notification by mail regarding the distribution dates, locations and times.

Potassium iodide (KI) is an over-the-counter medication that can protect the thyroid gland from radioactive iodine, which may be released in the event of a radiation emergency.

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The tablets were supplied to Delaware when the state chose to participate in a program initiated by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The tablets are offered to all states that have population within a 10-mile radius of a nuclear power facility.

Potassium iodide does not protect against external radiation, but it can help protect the thyroid gland from radioactive iodine that is ingested or inhaled. Potassium iodide is a supplement to Delaware's existing emergency plans developed for use in a nuclear incident. Evacuation remains the primary method of protecting Delaware residents; the potassium iodide will offer additional protection.

In the event of a radiation emergency, state and local officials will inform the public through use of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio stations. Information will include directions to evacuation routes and emergency reception centers, and instructions on when to take the potassium iodide tablets.

All Delaware residents who live within the 10-mile EPZ, and those who work or own businesses within 10 miles of the Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations in New Jersey are eligible for free potassium iodide tablets. They are asked to assist in the distribution efforts by following the guidelines included in the informational mailing.

Those eligible for potassium iodide are asked to bring the informational flyer they received in the mail, photo identification, such as a driver's license, or proof of residency, such as a utility bill. If you currently have potassium iodide that has passed the expiration date, please bring the tablets with you when you come to pick up your new tablets.

Those who reside outside of the ten-mile radius of Salem/Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Stations who would like to obtain potassium iodide should contact their pharmacist. Potassium iodide is available over the counter in some local pharmacies.

For additional information regarding the potassium iodide distribution program in Delaware, call the Delaware Emergency Management Agency Radiological Emergency Planning section at 302-659-3362.

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